

Remarks/Arguments

The Non-Final Office Action mailed August 26, 2004 has been received and carefully considered. Claims 1 - 21 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 - 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Schlarb et al. (U.S. Patent number 6,664,984 B2, hereinafter "Schlarb") in further view of Blonstein et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,411,308 B1, hereinafter "Blonstein"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The drawings have been replaced to conform the drawings to the specification.

In the present invention where the navigation device is a remote control device and the increments or notches representing predefined time slots because the remote control device is a discrete navigational aid. The present invention as recited in amended independent Claim 1 is:

A method for rapidly advancing an electronic program guide, comprising the steps of:

producing a signal suitable for display on a display device a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time to which a marker can be moved;

moving the marker using navigation buttons of a remote control device to a notch delineating a desired day and time in the future, thereby causing to be displayed in a time window displayed on the display device a time period displaying indicia for programs to be broadcast during the time period on said desired day and time. (emphasis added)

That is, the present invention is directed to a method for rapidly advancing through a time line of an electronic program guide using the navigation buttons of a remote control device. A standard remote control device used with a video display apparatus (television) navigates discretely so an easy way to navigate with a remote control device was needed. Precise pre-defined time slots are defined. The predefined time slots are discrete values of hours, days, weeks or months.

Schlarb describes a method and system for identification of pay-per-view programming which displays a time line, which can be scrolled through several days or weeks of program information. Blonstein describes a TV graphical user interface "arranged so as to cause the channel boxes to display numbers and logos of a selected



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

11/19/04
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Linda Lindall

group of channels when the user directs the pointing device at the area of the direct access bar that represents the selected group of channels." That is, the navigation device described in Blonstein is a pointing device such as a mouse that is continuous like a PC with a cursor and capable of pointing anywhere on the screen. A user employs the method and apparatus of Blonstein to channel surf while watching TV. The user of the continuous navigation pointing device of Blonstein can select a group of channels, wherein the group of channels can be anywhere within the entire range of channels available. That is, the user can, for example select channels 101-111 by pointing to channel 101 or can select 157-167 by pointing to channel 157.

Independent claims 8, 12 and 18 have been similarly amended to incorporate the remote control device. In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 8, 12 and 18 for at least the reasons stated above are patentable over the art of record. Claims 2 - 6 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claims 9 - 11 depend directly from claim 8. Claims 13 - 16 depend directly from claim 12. Claims 19 - 21 depend directly from claim 18. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that claims 2 - 6, 9 - 11, 13 - 16 and 19- 21 are also patentable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as the additional features recited therein.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6440, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please find attached to the end of this paper replacement sheets for Figs.

1 - 5.